

## SUMMARY

HA-1309

Papa Mia's  
Norrisville Road  
Madonna, Maryland

Built in the second or third quarter of the 19th century by Jarrett Nelson or by Lewis King, the log section of this structure was probably Lewis King's Blacksmith Shop from 1850 until 1885.

This part-frame, part-log structure, dating from the mid-to-late 19th century and housing a fast-food restaurant, contains some remarkable surprises. One is that the western section is log. Although altered substantially on both the interior and the exterior, much of the log structure remains intact. The frame section on the east may have been built by Benjamin Foard Cathcart, who owned the Madonna General Store.

According to C. Milton Wright, Madonna was located at a crossroads in what was called "Upper Node Forest." The community was first called King's Corner from the name of an early settler and, later, Briar's Ridge. In 1898 Postmaster Dr. William C. McCurdy named the community "Madonna" after his only daughter. When Frank Cathcart opened his store in 1907, it was known as Cathcart, and, finally, Madonna again. It was an important early trading center on the route of the Old Telegraph Road to Baltimore.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Papa Mia's

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

(Northwest corner of intersection of Md. Rte. 23 & Md. Rte. 146,  
in Madonna.)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Douglas Verzi

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Troyer Road

CITY, TOWN

Whitehall

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
MD 21161**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story, gable-roofed structure built in two parts is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Norrisville Rd. (Md. Rte. 23) and Madonna Road. (Md. Rte. 146)

The building faces south: the two-bay by two-bay western portion measuring 26'4" X 21'3" is log with a brick chimney in the west end; the eastern portion--also two bays wide and two bays deep, measuring 23'9" X 21'1"-- is frame with brick interior chimneys in both ends and a boxed cornice with gable returns. Both sections are covered in German siding. A one-story porch with chamfered posts spans the south sides of both structures and the east end of the frame part. Windows, except as noted, have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters.

The log section has entrances in the center two bays of the south side, flanked by one window on the west and a pair of windows with multi-paned borders on the east. In the second story, there are windows in the two end bays.

The west end and north side of the log section have been altered substantially.

The frame section has an entrance in the center bay of the south side, flanked by a window on each side, with two windows in the second story.

The east end has two windows in each story and scalloped shingles in the gable.

The interior of the building reveals several clues to the construction of the log section. The logs range from 9" to 11" and have v-notched ends and rubble and mortar chinking. Laths are machine cut. The first floor has been remodeled. A break in the logs of the east wall implies an earlier exterior chimney. The second floor has random width floor boards and joists with hewn sides and chamfered sawn edges. The roof was damaged by fire, but the attic has log rafters and round log joists. Under this section is a partial root cellar, with a partially-coursed fieldstone foundation. Against the west wall is a chimney support measuring 2'8" X 7".

The frame section has also been drastically remodeled and the second floor is divided into small rooms. Cut nails were used in the framing of this section.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1800, Thomas Briarly sold 160 acres of "Briarly's Dividend" to Robert Nelson for 600 pounds.<sup>1</sup> This was, according to the deed, "Agreeable to a patent granted the said Thomas Briarly by the State of Maryland May 10, 1800."

Robert Nelson was an extremely prosperous landowner. The 1814 Tax Assessment tells us he owned six lots of "Lady's Manor" (now "My Lady's Manor"), probably living on Lot #18 which was improved with three dwelling houses, including a stone negro quarter a wooden kitchen, two meathouses, three corn houses, two barns, and a stable, and valued at \$4590. The other lots--#s 19, 21, 22, 24, 25--totaling almost 300 acres, were assessed in aggregate at \$6116. Nelson's 160 acres of "Briarly's Dividend" were improved with a one-story wooden dwelling (43' X 23'), a wooden kitchen (16' X 13'), a double wooden barn (25' X 30'), and a wooden dairy (14' X 10') for an assessed value of \$7556, plus \$1364 for nine slaves. The building discussed here does not fit the dimensions of any of the 1814 structures.

Robert Nelson's will, dated May 15, 1816, left "the residue of Briolay's Dividend (sic) known by the name of the "Black House place" to his son, James as well as half of his other property totaling almost 600 acres.<sup>2</sup> In 1818, Jarrett Nelson paid James Nelson \$1500 for the 141-1/2 acre "residue of Briarly's Dividend."<sup>3</sup>

Lewis King, Sr., purchased this lot in 1850 in a sale of Jarrett Nelson's (dec.) estate.<sup>4</sup>

On both the 1858 Jennings and Herrick Map and the 1878 Martenet's Map, a structure belonging to "L. King" and "King," respectively, appears. He is listed in the 1871 Maryland State Gazette as being a blacksmith.

In 1885, Lewis King sold the property to Benjamin F. Cathcart of Baltimore County for \$400.<sup>5</sup> His son, B. Foard Cathcart, owned the structure until 1937, when he defaulted on the mortgage, and the store on an 18-acre parcel was sold to Abram and Laura Wilson.<sup>7</sup>

According to C. Milton Wright, Madonna was located at a crossroads in what was called "Upper Node Forest." The community was first called King's Corner from the name of an early settler and, later, Briar's Ridge. In 1898 Postmaster Dr. William C. McCurdy named the community "Madonna" after his only daughter. When Frank Cathcart opened his store in 1907, it was known as Cathcart, and, finally, Madonna again. It was an important early trading center on the route of the Old Telegraph Road to Baltimore.

1. Liber JLG P, Folio 195

2. Liber Will Records SR 1, Folio 141

3. Liber HD 1, Folio 317

4. Liber HDG 37, Folio 488

5. Liber ALJ 54, Folio 274

6. Liber Will Records HTB 14, Folio 324

7. Liber SWC 248, Folio 254

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will, & equity records of Harford County

1814 Tax Assessment of Harford County

The State Gazette & Merchants & Farmers' Directory for Maryland & The District of Columbia, Baltimore, Sadler, Drysdale & Purnell, 1871

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

10/79

STREET & NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000 X207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

PAPA MIA'S

Title Search

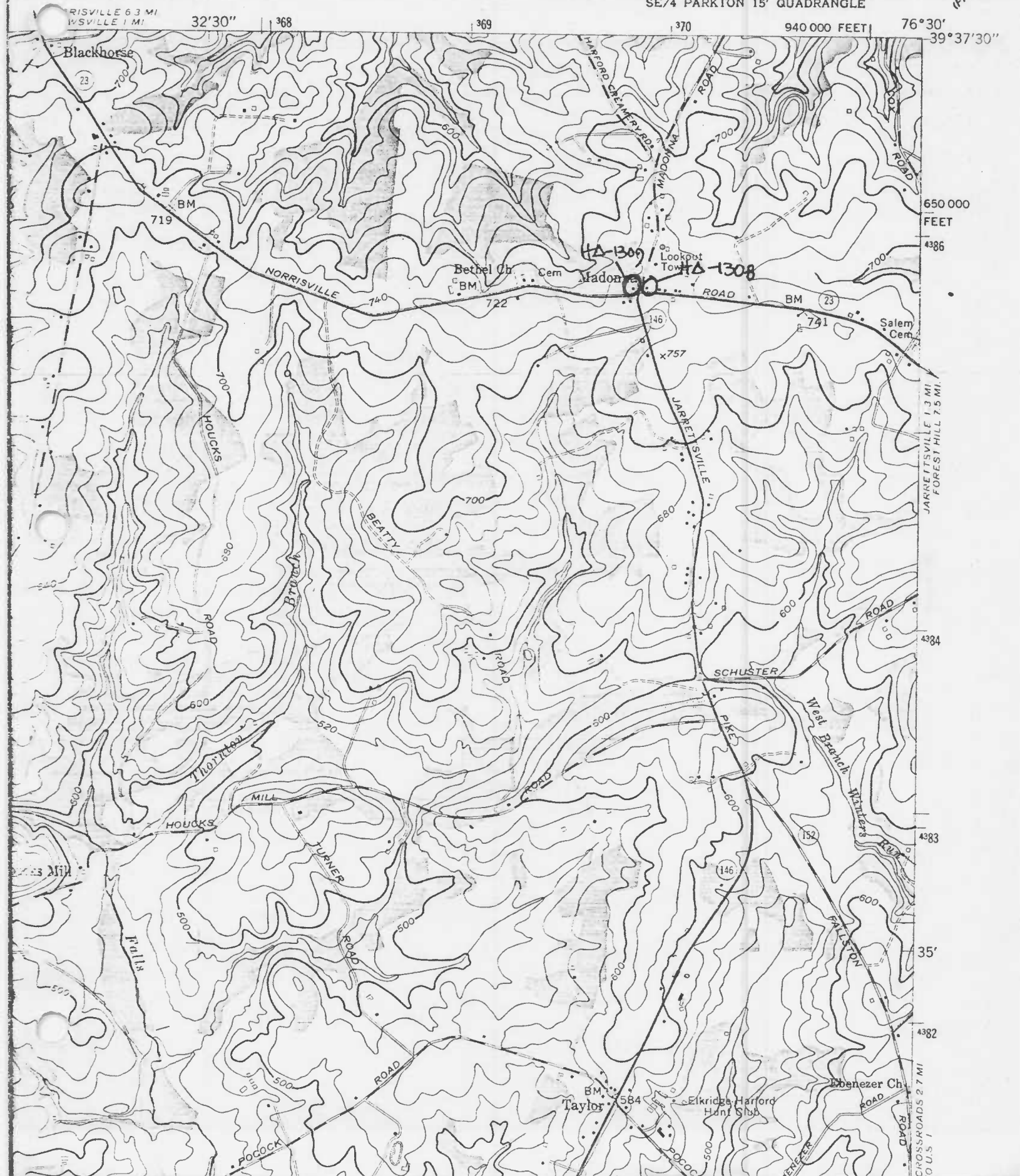
HA-1309

1. 904/1091 August 23, 1972 Grantor: Walter P. Wilson  
Grantee: Douglas W. Verzi & wife, Carolyn L. Verzi  
Acreage: 18 Acres
2. Will Records  
TLA 26/437 1963 Devisor: Laura P. Wilson  
Devisee: Walter P. Wilson
3. SWC 248/254 November 4, 1937 Grantor: James Glasgow Archer, Jr., Assignee  
(D. Foard & Martha E. Cathcart-defaulted  
on mortgage - SWL 229/21)  
Grantee: Abram J. & Laura G. Wilson  
Sum: \$3500  
Acreage: 18 3/10 Acres of "Briarly's Dividend"
4. Will Records  
HTB 14/324 1911 Devisor: B. Franklin Cathcart
5. ALJ 54/274 July 10, 1885 Grantor: Lewis King  
Grantee: Benjamin F. Cathcart of Baltimore Co.  
Sum: \$400  
Acreage: part of "Briarly's Delight" = 141¼ Acres
6. HDG 37/488 January 31, 1850 Grantor: James Nelson, Trustee  
(Sale of property of Jarrett Nelson, dec.)  
Grantee: Lewis King, Sr.  
Sum: \$1057  
Acreage: "Briarly's Dividend" = 137½ Acres
7. HD 1/317 April 9, 1818 Grantor: James Nelson  
Grantee: Jarrett Nelson  
Sum: \$1500  
Acreage: "the residue of Briarly's Dividend  
devised to James by father, Robert  
Nelson" = 141½ Acres
8. Will Records  
SR 1/141 May 15, 1816 Will of Robert Nelson - "To son, James - residue  
of Briariys Dividend known by the name  
of the Black House place"
9. JLG P/195 July 17, 1800 Grantor: Thomas Briarly  
Grantee: Robert Nelson  
Sum: 600 pounds  
Acreage: "Briarly's Dividend" = 160 Acres

HA-1309

PHOENIX QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SE/4 PARKTON 15' QUADRANGLE

5763 III NW  
(FAWN GROVE)







Papa Mia's  
Madonna, MD 21084  
Natalie Shivers  
Southeast

HA-1309

9/79